D-7946

MUNICIPAL POLICE
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12 / 6 / 37

June 11 37.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1868, dated 7th June, 1937, and in reply to inform you that there is nothing in Municipal Police records against Mr. Boris Abramovich Topas. A copy of report on this individual is attached herewith.*

* Enclosed 12/6 ASD.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) K. M. Bourne.

Deputy Commissioner
(Special Branch)

J. Van den Berg, Esq.,

Netherlands Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

G. 45M-1-36

File No. 704

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.L. Special Branch

REPORT

Date June 11, 1937

Subject: Communication dated 7.6.37 from the Netherlands Consulate General concerning B.A. Topas.

Made by: D.S. Tcheremshansky

Forwarded by: [illegible]

Enquiries show that Boris Abramovich Topas, Russian Jew, was born on 1.3.1892 at Stretensk, Transbaikal Province, Siberia. About 30 years ago he arrived in Harbin, Manchuria, where he was engaged in commercial activities. Until 1925-6 he was connected with M.A. Topas & Co, Manufacturers, Importers, and Exporters, 16 Birjevaia Street, Harbin, a well known firm in Manchuria. The owners of this firm were his uncle M.A. Topas and his cousin, the late A.A.Naphtanovich.

In 1925 or 1926 B.A. Topas arrived in Shanghai and started business under the name of B. Topas & Co. Ltd, Manufacturers, Importers and Exporters, 64 Peking Road. At present he owns three firms : Topas Transport & Storage Co, B.Topas Trading Co. and Topas Land Investment Co. with offices at No. 11 Ezra Road. In 1936 he joined as a partner the Silver Jubilee Publishing Co. Ltd, 11 Ezra Road and is a Director and Secretary of this company.

Topas is one of the leading members of the Russian Jewish community. In 1936 the All World Zionist Executive Committee in Jerusalem appointed him their Emissary in China of which fact, it is reported, the Palestine Government informed the British Consulate-General in Shanghai. Shortly after Topas received this post he organized the Jewish Communal Association of Shanghai, of which he is Chairman. R.B. Bitker is the Secretary of this Association and members include Rabbi M. Ashkenazi and Rev. M.Brown. All these persons are well known members of Jewish Community. B.A. Topas is President of the Shanghai Zionist Association "Kadimah", 110 Szechuen Road. He is also a member of the Shanghai Jewish Club, 35 Moulmein Road. This Club admits as members Jews of all countries, including Soviet citizens. Some of the members have been the subjects of police reports in connection with poli-

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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REPORT
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tical activity or business relations with local Soviet commercial institutions. Although Topas numbers Soviet citizens among his acquaintances, he has the reputation of being a conservative, orthodox Jew.

Topas resides at 1230 Avenue Joffre together with his family consisting of his wife, Mrs. L. Topas, 45, and their daughters, Eugenia, born in 1923 at Harbin and Eleonora, born in 1929 at Shanghai.

He is registered with the Shanghai City Government Police Bureau and the Russian Emigrants Committee.

Nothing detrimental is known, by this office concerning this person.

G Icheremshansky
D.S.

D.C. Special Branch.

CONSULAAT-GENERAAL DER NEDERLANDEN
VOOR MIDDEN-CHINA.
TEL. AD. HOLLANDIA.

7946
6 37

No. 1868.

SHANGHAI, 7th June 1937

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Mr Boris Abramovitch TOPAS has applied to this Consulate for a visé for admission into the Netherlands Indies.

He is in possession of a passport issued by the Bureau of Public Safety at Shanghai on the 21st May 1937 No. 8139/357372.

According to his passport he was born in Stretensk, Russia, about 45 years ago.

Mr. Topas who is secretary of the Silver Jubilee Publishing Company Ltd., 11 Edward Ezra Road, intends to make a trip around the world on behalf of this company and to travel via Hongkong, Macao, Manila, Saigon, Singapore, Batavia, Bangkok, Port Said, Jerusalem, Marseilles, London, New York, San Francisco, and thence to Shanghai.

Besides this secretaryship Mr. Topas has his own company the Topas Transport & Storage Company also situated at 11 Edward Ezra Road.

He stated that he has been residing in China for more than 30 years whereas his private address in Shanghai is 1230 Avenue Joffre.

He intends to leave Shanghai about the 15th of this month for Hongkong.

From my records I find that in the spring of 1931 Mr. Topas was interested in the establishment of a hotel together with various Soviet agents.

I should be much obliged to you if you would let me know, if possible, whether anything is known against this person from a political or moral point of view.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[illegible]

Major K.M. Bourne,
Officer i/c Special Branch,
Shanghai Municipal Police,

SHANGHAI.

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SPECIAL BRANCH
8 JUNE 1937
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE